

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
29 September 2005 (29.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/091511 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04B 1/10**

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(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IB2005/050753

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(22) International Filing Date: 1 March 2005 (01.03.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0406092.7 17 March 2004 (17.03.2004) GB

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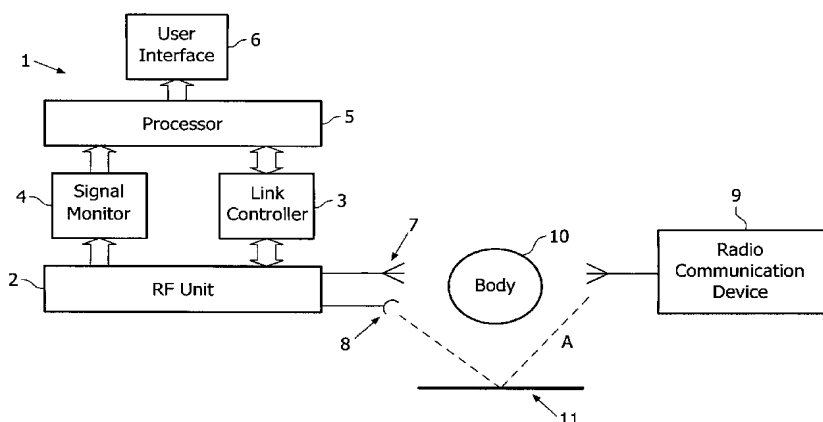
(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: RADIO COMMUNICATION DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A radio communication device (1) comprises a Radio Frequency (RF) unit (2) for transmitting and receiving radio signals, a link controller (3) for controlling operation of the RF unit (2) and a signal monitor (4) for monitoring signals received by the RF unit (2). A processor (5) is connected to the link controller (3) and the signal monitor (4) and a user interface (6). When it is desired for the communication device (1) to communicate with another device (9), a communication link is established in a conventional way. The signal monitor (4) is able to measure signal strength and the bit error rate (BER) of the signal received in the communication link from the other communication device (9) and outputs these to the processor (5). When the BER is unacceptably high, the processor (5) determines whether the measured signal strength has changed from very high to very low in a short period. This is indicative of the body (10) blocking the signal. If the processor (5) determines that the body (10) is blocking the signal it causes the device (1) to try to maintain the communication link, e.g. by continuing to try to receive a signal in the communication link rather than allowing the link to break normally.

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SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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**Published:**

— *with international search report*